

C1 and an air duct that feeds to an associated heating/air-conditioning zone, wherein the warm-air control element includes a plurality of moveable lamellae movable [to] between an open position and a closed position to block heated air from the heater, one of the partition walls dividing each of the cold air ducts into two separate cold air ducts, to define four independent cold air ducts with each cold air duct communicating with one of the air mixing chambers and having said associated cold air flap therein,

whereby both the quantity and the temperature of air fed to each of the four associated heating/air-conditioning zones is independently controllable with respect to each other zone.

C2 4. (Three Times Amended) A heating or air-conditioning system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cold-air flap is arranged at a mouth of the respective cold-air duct, and movable between an opened position and a closed position, the cold-air flap deflecting cold air toward warm air exiting the heater into the respective air-mixing chamber in its open position.

C3 6. (Twice Amended) A heating or air-conditioning system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lamellae of each warm-air control element in their open position deflect warm air laterally toward cold air entering the air-mixing chamber from the respective cold air duct.

Kindly add the following new claims:

C4 12. (New) A heating or air-conditioning system for a motor vehicle, comprising:  
a housing;  
a heater that produces warm air situated within the housing;  
two cold-air ducts formed in the housing, the cold-air ducts being routed laterally around both sides of the heater and each cold-air duct having an associated cold-air flap that controls air flow therethrough; and

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partition walls within the housing, the partition walls forming four air-mixing chambers downstream of the heater in a direction of air flow, each individual mixing chamber including a warm-air control element that controls air flow therethrough and an air duct that feeds to an associated heating/air-conditioning zone, wherein the warm-air control element includes a plurality of moveable lamellae movable between an open position and a closed position to block heated air from the heater,

wherein the lamellae of each warm-air control element in their open position are oriented to be partially open so as to deflect warm air laterally toward cold air entering the air-mixing chamber from the respective cold air duct.

13. (New) A heating or air-conditioning system as claimed in claim 12, wherein one of the partition walls divides each of the cold air ducts into two separate cold air ducts, to define four independent cold air ducts with each cold air duct communicating with one of the air mixing chambers and having said associated cold air flap therein, whereby both the quantity and the temperature of air fed to each of the four associated heating/air-conditioning zones is independently controllable with respect to each other zone

14. (New) A heating or air-conditioning system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the cold-air flap is arranged at a mouth of the respective cold-air duct, and movable between an opened position and a closed position, the cold-air flap deflecting cold air toward warm air exiting the heater into the respective air-mixing chamber in its open position.

15. (New) , A heating or air-conditioning system for a motor vehicle, comprising:  
a housing;  
a heater that produces warm air situated within the housing;

two cold-air ducts formed in the housing, the cold-air ducts being routed laterally around both sides of the heater and each cold-air duct having an associated cold-air flap that controls air flow therethrough;

C4 partition walls within the housing, the partition walls forming four air-mixing chambers downstream of the heater in a direction of air flow, each individual mixing chamber including a warm-air control element that controls air flow therethrough and an air duct that feeds to an associated heating/air-conditioning zone, wherein the warm-air control element includes a plurality of moveable lamellae movable between an open position and a closed position to block heated air from the heater, one of the partition walls dividing each of the cold air ducts into two separate cold air ducts, to define four independent cold air ducts with each cold air duct communicating with one of the air mixing chambers and having said associated cold air flap therein; and

means for selectively coupling together two adjacent warm-air control elements and two adjacent cold-air flaps, whereby the system can be selectively used in a heating/air-conditioning assembly wherein both the quantity and the temperature of air fed to each of the four associated heating/air-conditioning zones is independently controllable with respect to each other zone or wherein both the quantity and the temperature of air fed to each of two associated heating/air-conditioning zones defined by the respectively coupled flaps is independently controllable with respect to each other zone.

16. (New) A heating or air-conditioning system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the four heating/air-conditioning zones comprise a front driver side, a front passenger side, a rear right passenger side and a rear left passenger side of a vehicle.

17. (New) A heating or air-conditioning system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the four heating/air-conditioning zones comprise a front driver side, a front passenger side, a rear right passenger side and a rear left passenger side of a vehicle.